

the sculptured Eagles. It is called *Thrasaëtus harpyia*, or "Crested Eagle."

Either one of the two following species, also preserved in the collection of the British Museum, is not unlikely to have presented the type of a *Crested Eagle* to those sculptors, namely, *first*, *Spizaëtus cirrhatus*, or the "Crested Indian Eagle," with its legs feathered to the toes; inhabiting Nepal and India, it might have been known to the Romans.

And the *second* species, *Spizaëtus coronatus*, is a truly fine bird, bearing a large and long *crest*: it is found in Southern Africa. Although this, like the preceding species, has its *tarsi feathered*, still this character, being very difficult for the sculptor to represent in stone, may have been purposely omitted.

I may then add, in concluding, that either this last-named "Crowned Eagle" (*S. coronatus*) or the *A. Desmursii* may have been the representative of the Palmyra and Baalbec Eagles; for I can by no means think that the sculptors executed those admirably finished *Crested Eagles* in the splendid Temples of the Sun in both of those cities, from their own imagination, and without the aid of an existing *natural species* to direct them in their measurements of the stone figures, and more especially since that sun-bird was the *sacred symbol* of the Great Deity in those cities, where the chief worship of *Baal*, or *Apollo*, or the *Sun* had for so many ages prevailed, and even become renowned throughout the Roman world.

*Climbing Habits of the Anabas scandens.*

*To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—The February Number of the 'Annals of Natural History' contained an article on the climbing habits of the *Anabas scandens*, written by Capt. Mitchell, of the Madras Government Central Museum; and the following extract from a private letter just received from him may be of interest to your readers as tending to confirm the views stated in the paper referred to.

Captain Mitchell says in his letter:—

"Rungasawmy brought to the library, two days ago, three live specimens of the *Anabas scandens*, to show me how it progressed. It was really most amusing to see these creatures scudding along the rattan mat. The great motive agent was evidently the operculum, which they opened and shut with great rapidity, moving first on one side and then on the other. The pectoral fin appeared also to be used; but I could not see that the tail was of much assistance. So long as the direction of movement was across the rattans, progress seemed tolerably easy; but one fellow got on the line of the rattans, and seemed much bothered until he changed his direction by a 'right shoulders forward.' I have the three fish in my aquarium, where they seem quite at home. They do not appear to breathe like other fish: I have watched one for some minutes without perceiving any motion of the lips or operculum."

Your very obedient Servant,

London, May 13, 1864.

A. C. BRISBANE NEILL.